

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The rejection of the claims as anticipated by Titterington (U.S. Patent No. 4,992,304) as well as the rejection of the claims as unpatentable over Curiel (U.S. Patent No. 6,655,598) in view of Titterington is respectfully traversed. By the foregoing amendment, applicant has amended the two independent claims to explicitly recite the positive cooling step at a cooling station. This amendment makes explicit and clarifies the meaning of the cooling step previously recited. Applicant takes exception to the Examiner's characterization that the prior step of "cooling the deposited material" is not a positive step. At lines 15 et seq. on page 7, of the specification, it is disclosed that the substrate passes in front of a cooler to ensure rapid solidification to avoid deformation of the relief obtained. Claims are also read in light of the supporting disclosure and to say that cooling in ambient air corresponds to a specifically recited step of cooling in a method type claim supported by a disclosure of a discrete cooling station is not to give the interpretation to the claims required. Consequently, applicant has amended the claims to more positively recite the step of cooling so that there is no doubt that a positive cooling step is required subsequent to the deposition of the fluidized plastic on the substrate. It is not sufficient simply to deposit the plastic material and permit the plastic material to cool under ambient conditions. In the context of the present invention as disclosed and claimed, positive cooling action is necessary to cool the plastic material to retain the relief desired. Neither Titterington nor Curiel disclose any such positive cooling step and nothing in those patents suggest applying a relief inscription by depositing plastic drops on a substrate made of plastic and positively cooling the deposited material at a cooling station to ensure rapid solidification of the deposited material. Applicant therefore believes that the claims clearly patentably distinguish from these references.

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Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested on the grounds that it simply clarifies the previously recited step of "cooling the deposited material" as a positive step with the added function of ensuring rapid solidification of the deposited material which follows from the positive step of cooling.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims presently pending in the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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